

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-21 remain for consideration. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. All remaining claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action fails to establish that claims 1-12 and 14-21 are anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) by U.S. Patent Number 6,191,994 to Ooishi et al. (hereinafter "Ooishi").

The Office Action does not interpret the teachings of Ooishi properly in light of the claims. In particular, the Office Action alleges correspondence between current mirrors (13a-13x, 14, 17a-17x and 18) and Applicant's claimed power regulating circuit, which is adapted to provide "an operating current and an operating voltage to a common node." As taught by Ooishi, however, the current mirrors only provide an operating current to nodes (N6, N5). (See abstract). The operating voltage is taught to be generated by the combination of amplifier 4A and transistor 10. (See abstract and column 6, lines 3-10). Thus, the Office Action must include amplifier 4A and transistor 10 to find correspondence to the function of Applicant's power regulating circuit.

Most of the structural limitations of Applicant's power regulating circuit, however, are not taught by Ooishi. For example, no correspondence is found between Applicant's "resistive element having a first conductor coupled to the common node" and "a voltage source coupled between a second conductor of the resistive element and the reference supply." The claimed structure is adapted to "conduct a portion of the operating current and, therefrom, establish the operating voltage at the common node." In contrast to Applicant's claim 1, Ooishi's amplifier 4A and transistor 10 do not form such a structure and further conduct no portion of the operating current to generate the operating voltage at the common node.

Furthermore, no correspondence exists between Ooishi and Applicant's stabilizer, which is "coupled to the common node and adapted to provide a compensation current to the common node to stabilize the operating voltage at the common node in response to differences between a first reference voltage and a feedback voltage indicative of variations at the common node." The Office Action

suggests a correspondence between amplifier 4A and transistor 10 and Applicant's stabilizer, however, Ooishi teaches that the current generated by transistor 10 is "none or considerably small." (See column 6, lines 52-56). This teaching is contrary to the claimed function of Applicant's stabilizer, which is to "provide a compensation current to the common node to stabilize the operating voltage at the common node."

Applicant's claims 6, 15, and 16, set forth substantially similar limitations as those discussed above in relation to claim 1. Among other features, for example, claim 6 sets forth "a voltage regulator [that is] adapted to generate an operating voltage from a first portion of the operating current and [that is] coupled to supply the operating voltage to the common node" and "a common mode stabilizer [that is] adapted to compare the operating voltage to a first reference voltage and [that is] further adapted to compensate the operating current to cancel variations in the operating voltage at the common node."

As discussed above, however, Ooishi fails to teach conducting a portion of the operating current to generate the operating voltage at the common node and further fails to teach that the stabilizer compensates the operating current to cancel variations in the operating voltage. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 1, 6, 15, and 16 patentably distinguish over Ooishi and are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-12, 14, and 17-21, which are dependent from independent Claims 1, 6, and 16 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ooishi. While Applicant does not acquiesce to the particular rejections to these dependent claims, it is believed that these rejections are now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 2 and 3 and the remarks made in connection with independent claims 1, 6, 15, and 16. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the cited references. Therefore, dependent Claims 4-5, 7-12, 14, and 17-21 are also in condition for allowance.

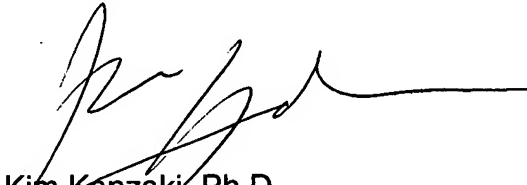
The Office Action objects to claim 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As discussed above, however, claim 6 patentably distinguishes over Ooishi and is in condition for allowance. Since claim 13 depends upon claim 6, which is thought to be allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

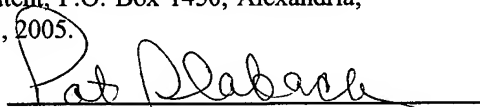
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patent, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 15, 2005.

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